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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 27 | Min 20 | Humidity 95% Generally cloudy sky with Light rain Sensex 80,718 | Nifty 24,734 | Gold 1,06,860 | Silver 1,27,000 | Dollar 88.14 | Euro 102.48 | GBP 117.78

Drop the axe

CITY PAGE 3

Objections pour in against proposal to axe trees at Cantonment Railway Colony as B'luru votes for biodiversity heritage tag for campus

Elusive justice

CITY PAGE 5

While number of rape cases in state has risen over past three years, conviction rates have plummeted to single digits

Nobody is impressed with your wheelies, folks. By July 31 this year, 544 cases have already been recommended to RTO for licence suspension due to wheelie stunt cases — huge spike as compared to previous years

HIT YOUR BRAKES, STOP THE STUNT

Number of cases booked has seen a 103% jump in 2024 as compared to 2022

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Think pulling a wheelie on Bengaluru's streets is just harmless fun? The city's traffic police have a new message — and the sharp spike in recommendations for driving licence (DL) suspensions and registration certificate (RC) cancellations proves they mean business.

Bengaluru Traffic Police data shows a dramatic rise in recommendations to the Regional Transport Office (RTO) for DL suspension or RC cancellation in connection with wheelie stunt cases. In 2022, just 67 cases were forwarded for action. By 2024, that number had surged to 453 — an eightfold increase in three years. The trend has accelerated further in 2025. By July 31, 544 cases had already been recommended to the RTO, putting this year on track for record highs.

Offences on the rise

Presenting the data in the Legislative Assembly recently, Home Minister G Parameshwara said that this spike in recommendations is in step with the overall increase in wheelie stunt incidents. From 404 cases booked in 2022, the tally rose to 822 in 2024 — a 103% jump. By mid-2025, police had already recorded 706 cases. Officials say many riders perform the stunts on busy roads, often filming for social media, putting both themselves and others in danger.

Legal provisions

Riders caught doing wheelies face charges under Section 281 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) along with Sections 184 and 189 of the Motor Vehicles Act. For

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

> **"The city's roads are not a stunt arena. If you perform dangerous tricks, you risk losing your licence, your bike — and much more**
>
> — Traffic police official

Degrees of deception

Info under RTI reveals 40 Legislative Secretariat employees managed to get LLB degrees while they were working full-time. How, is the question

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It is indeed curious that 40 people seemed to have passed with flying colours and got their LLB degrees even as they were employed at the Karnataka Legislative Secretariat. The point to be noted is that to get LLB degrees, students have to attend classes for three years from their Law Colleges. They are not supposed to attend evening colleges as the Bar Council of India does not permit it. So the question is when these 40 candidates have not applied leave or permission from the higher authorities to go for the classes, how did they manage to get the LLB degrees?

Legislative Secretariat employees are supposed to attend duty at 10.30 am and remain in office till 5.30 pm. Law Colleges conduct classes from 8.30 am to 2.30 pm. If the government employees attend classes regularly, it would affect their work at the Legislative Secretariat. As per the data available under the RTI Act, one of these candidates is said to have got the LLB degree from a law college situated in Gokak. The logistic challenge

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Onam odyssey

Celebrate Kerala's grand festival with dance, music, floral art, games, and the sumptuous Onam Sadhya at Bhartiya Mall, bringing traditions alive in a vibrant cultural journey. **Where: Bhartiya Mall of Bengaluru; When: September 5**

02 Wedding carnival

Discover South India's largest jewellery and wedding lifestyle exhibition with over 100 exhibitors showcasing jewellery, bridal couture, décor, photography, and luxury wedding services. **Where: Tripura Vasini, Palace Grounds ; When: September 5 – 7**

03 Cycling movement

Join Bengaluru's 10th edition of Pedal for The Planet, featuring pro-elite races, amateur rides, and family-friendly categories for cyclists of all ages. **Where: Embassy Springs, Bengaluru When: September 14, 6.30 am to 11 am**

04 Power mornings

Kickstart your Sunday with HIIT dance workouts, team activities, fun challenges, and a wholesome breakfast buffet in a vibrant community-driven setting. **Where: Nagavara SOCIAL, Manyata Tech Park When: September 7, 8 am – 12 pm**

05 Sampradaya festival

Experience the timeless beauty of Indian classical dance with Kathak, Odissi, and Mohiniattam performances, celebrating tradition and contemporary reflections in one cultural evening. **Where: Seva Sadan, Malleswaram; When: September 12, 6 pm**

Day of festivities

Events scheduled for Eid; Bengaluru ready for Onam

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File Photo

With Eid Milad-un-Nabi falling on September 5 this year, Muslims are preparing to celebrate in large numbers, with a major gathering scheduled at Palace Grounds. Scholars and religious leaders from various regions are also set to participate in the event, which marks 1,500 years since the birth of Prophet Muhammad.

Jumma Masjid Trustee Usman Shariff said that elaborate security arrangements are in place, with around 2,000 volunteers assisting, including members of the Haj Committee and Civil Defence. Multiple entry and exit points equipped with metal detectors will be set up to ensure safety. "People from all walks of life are welcome to attend. Special veiling arrangements have been made for women. Dinner will be served to all invited guests following the conference," he added.

In previous years, different organisations held their conferences at separate venues. This year, however, they will begin their processions from various locations and converge at Palace Grounds for a unified celebration. The conference will feature several prominent Islamic scholars and religious leaders, who will speak on themes of spirituality, unity, and the relevance of the Prophet's teachings in today's world. Among the key speakers are Shaikh Abubacker Ahmed Musliyar and Mohammed Mtukoya Jafer Thangal, from Kerala. In addition, Ulema and intellectuals from across India will deliver thought-provoking addresses. Organisers said the conference is not just a celebration, but also a reminder of the timeless values of the Prophet Muhammad's mercy, compassion, truth, and justice.

"Celebrating the Seerat-un-Nabi (PBUH) is not merely about festivity; it is about reorienting our lives towards the values of humanity, peace, and harmony," said Usman. Some even conduct acts of charity such as distributing food, organising community feasts, donation drives and helping underprivileged families. Mosques and streets are decorated with green flags, lights, and banners, while families prepare festive meals and teach children stories of the Prophet's kindness.

Traffic advisory for celebration

Movement of all types of vehicles will be restricted on the following roads:

1. Nagawara Junction to Pottery Circle Road – Traffic will be restricted.
2. Netaji Junction to Tannery Road via Pottery Circle – Traffic will be restricted.
3. M.M. Road from Mask Junction to Netaji Junction will be temporarily converted to one-way traffic, allowing vehicles to travel from Netaji Junction towards Mask Junction.
4. Haines Road from Netaji Junction to Haines Junction – Traffic will be restricted.

Bengaluru embraces colours and flavours of Onam

Onam, the iconic festival of Malayalis, has once again brought vibrancy and joy to the city, with celebrations blending tradition, culture and community spirit. The ten-day Onam season began on August 26 and will culminate with Thiruvonam on September 5. Across Bengaluru, families, cultural associations, schools and even tech parks have joined in the festivities. Venu Ravindran, president of the East Cultural Association. says, "Bangalore has become a second home for many, with several people moving here from Kerala for work or other reasons. What makes the Onam celebrations in Bengaluru unique is that they have evolved into a community celebration. In Kerala, the festival season is usually like a vacation, with families either traveling or celebrating at home. But here, whether it's clubs, residents or hotels, everyone comes together to celebrate as a community."

She said, Onam is not a religious festival, but it marks the end of the monsoon season and is observed as a celebration of harvest and togetherness. "In Bengaluru, these festivities have been brought alive since last weekend, with events showcasing not only the grand Onam Sadhya but also cultural programs that reflect the region's rich heritage, many of which had faded over the decades," she said.

Essence of Onam

The symbol of Onam celebrations in the city remains the colourful Pookkalam created to welcome King Mahabali.

The Onam Sadhya, a grand vegetarian feast served on a banana leaf, is relished by Malayalis and non-Malayalis alike. Today, In Bengaluru, major restaurants, catering services and community associations, the Sadhya is easily available through restaurants and caterers, who see brisk business during Onam, even offering doorstep delivery with the traditional banana leaf for a complete experience.

File Photo

Cultural performances add rhythm and grace to the festival. Several cultural forums, including Kerala Samajams and Malayali associations in areas like Indiranagar, Koramangala and Whitefield, organise large-scale programmes featuring traditional music, skits, and competitions for children. Corporate campuses with a large Malayali workforce also mark the occasion with floral decorations, cultural shows, and potluck sadhyas.

Government weighs alternatives for Jakkur Aerodrome

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has highlighted two obstacles to the state government's plan to expand Jakkur Aerodrome: a newly constructed flyover and resistance from landowners. He said the government was unaware of the flyover project, which has now become an obstruction to aerodrome operations. Additionally, efforts to acquire over three acres of adjacent land for runway expansion have stalled because of prohibitive costs and the unwillingness of landowners to sell. These setbacks are compelling the government to consider alternative approaches, including optimising the existing 200-acre site for public purposes. At the same time, it must comply with a court directive requiring the continuation of the flying training school.

Officials are examining options to balance aviation needs, public utility, and legal obligations. **— BMB**

No-delay treatment for accident victims

The Karnataka government has reiterated that all hospitals and medical professionals are legally required to provide immediate emergency treatment to accident victims without insisting on advance payment. The directive extends beyond road accidents to cases of burns, poisoning, and criminal assault. In a recent circular, the government reminded hospitals that under the Karnataka Private Medical Establishments Act, 2007, and the Karnataka Good Samaritan and Medical Professional Act, 2016, they are obligated to provide free medical screening and first-aid. Hospitals lacking advanced facilities must stabilise the patient before arranging transfer and ensure full medical records are shared. Non-compliance will attract strict penalties, including fines up to ₹1 lakh and possible imprisonment.

In addition to existing regulations, the government has introduced the Cashless Treatment of Road Accident Victims Scheme, 2025. This initiative allows victims to receive cashless treatment up to ₹1.5 lakh for seven days at designated hospitals. Managed by the state road safety council, it expands the current program offering free, cashless care for up to 48 hours. By strengthening laws and schemes, the government seeks to ensure that no patient is denied urgent, life-saving medical care. **— BMB**

Kristu Jayanti tops K'taka in NIRF

The Ministry of Education has released the 10th edition of the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2025, announced by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. Kristu Jayanti College, now recognised as Kristu Jayanti (Deemed to be University), secured the 34th position in the Colleges Category, emerging as the highest-ranked institution in Karnataka within this prestigious ranking. **— BMB**

Bengaluru stands up for its magnificent trees

Citizens flood Karnataka Biodiversity Board with objections against proposed felling of 368 trees at Cantonment Railway Colony campus

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Following the extension of the deadline to raise objections against felling of 368 trees at the Cantonment Railway Colony campus, Bengalureans have come out strongly in favour of declaring the campus a biodiversity heritage site.

Citizens have flooded the Karnataka Biodiversity Board with objections, requesting that the Board save the trees.

They say the Bengaluru Railway Station precinct, spread across nearly eight acres, is home to magnificent old trees and a rich habitat that supports numerous bird species. This green expanse stands as a living tribute to our city's biodiversity and ecological heritage.

However, with the rapid increase in concrete development across Bengaluru, the city's vital green spaces are shrinking at an alarming rate.

File photo of a protest organised after the decision to fell trees at Cantonment Railway Colony campus was made public

"Cantonment Railway Colony in central Bengaluru, with 368 large trees, serves as a critical natural asset to the city. Karnataka Forest Minister's visit to the site and his decision to call for a meeting of the Karnataka Biodiversity Board to consider declaring this area a Biodiversity Heritage Site have brought immense hope to citizens. We have written to KBB to take all necessary steps to officially declare the Bengaluru Cantonment Colony as a Biodiversity Heritage Site, thereby securing its protection for present and future generations," said Sunita, a citizen in favour of declaring the site as a biodiversity heritage site.

In letter written to Karnataka Biodiversity Board, citizens urge Cantonment Colony be officially declared as Biodiversity Heritage Site

The controversial project by the Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) took centerstage a couple of months ago, after Bengaluru's civic agency issued a notice regarding the removal of 368 trees for a commercial development project. RLDA had sought permission to clear the trees, leading to public outcry. RLDA officials, in a public consultation meeting, had informed that the project was proposed to ensure a source of revenue for Karnataka Rail Infrastructure Development Company Limited (K-RIDE).

Following the protest, Bengaluru's Biodiversity Management Committee members conducted an on-site inspection in April and submitted a report stating that RLDA should justify its proposal to cut 84 out of the proposed 368 trees at the Bangalore Cantonment Railway Colony campus.

According to a source from the Karnataka Forest Minister's office, all comments received from the public so far are in favour of declaring the campus as a biodiversity heritage site.

"September 8 has been set as the last date to file comments and objections in the matter. Based on the public response, Karnataka's Forest Minister is expected to chair a meeting with KBB officials, and a decision will be taken," said the source.

CRIME FILES

Masked intruder arrested for assaulting woman, looting PG

The Suddagunte Palya police have arrested man for barging into a ladies' PG near Gangotri Circle, BTM Phase 1, misbehaving with a young woman, and fleeing with cash.

According to the complaint filed on August 29, the accused, identified as Naresh, who is not from the state, trespassed into the PG, latched the doors of other rooms from outside, and entered the victim's room with his face covered by a mask. He allegedly molested the woman at knife-point, threatened her with dire consequences when she tried to resist, and escaped with ₹2,500 in cash. Police said Naresh is a habitual offender with two prior robbery cases in his hometown in 2021. After securing bail, he had moved to Bengaluru and was working as a gig worker.

On September 3, the Suddagunte Palya police tracked him down in Electronic City after analysing more than 100 CCTV camera footage from in and around the scene of crime. He was taken into custody and confessed to the offence. Naresh will be produced before court on September 4. **-BMB**

Police crackdown on ganja peddlers, seize over 13 kg narcotics

In back-to-back operations, the Viveknagar police busted two ganja trafficking cases within a week, seizing more than 13 kg of narcotics and arresting two interstate offenders with prior criminal records.

On August 26, the police, acting on a tip-off, raided a spot near Austin Town Neelasandra Chor Park and caught hold of the accused, identified as Birender Pandey while he was attempting to sell ganja. Police recovered 2.27 kg of marijuana worth around ₹60,000. Probe revealed that Pandey, with an absconding accomplice, had transported the contraband from Bihar to Bengaluru by train, and was distributing it in small packets to local youths.

Officials also disclosed that Pandey is a repeat offender; he had earlier been booked in a similar NDPS case at Varthur Police Station in 2018, which is still under trial before the Principal District and Sessions Court, Bengaluru Rural.

Just a day earlier, on August 25, the same police team intercepted another narcotics deal on Lower Agram Road, near ASC Centre Multi Compound, where they seized a larger haul of 11.15 kg of ganja worth about ₹5 lakh. The accused, identified as Gopinath Samal (43) from Odisha, was caught red-handed while attempting to sell the contraband. The raid led to the seizure being documented under a mahazar.

Inquiries revealed that Samal had been sourcing Ganja from outside Karnataka and selling it in the city. **-BMB**

YouTuber's B'luru flat searched

The Belthangady police in Dakshina Kannada district on Thursday searched the Bengaluru residence of YouTuber Sameer MD, who is facing a case registered at the Dharmasthala police station.

The operation was carried out under a search warrant issued by the Belthangady court on September 3. Sameer is presently on bail. Circle Inspector Nagesh Kadri, along with forensic science personnel, visited Sameer's rented apartment in Hullahalli, Bannerghatta. Police sources said Sameer had been informed in advance about the search. A computer and a mobile phone, believed to have been used for video recording, were seized for further forensic examination.

Sameer, who runs a Kannada YouTube channel – Dhoota, is known for creating content on social and political issues, often critical of local leaders and institutions. His outspoken style has drawn a significant online following but has also led to controversy and police complaints. **-PTI**

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LET'S TOGETHER GROW

Taxed but abandoned in Abhivrudhi Garden Layout

For years, civic confusion has left more than 70 homes fending for themselves

The drain with dirty water poses health problems to the reasidents of Abhivrudhi Garden Layout

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Abhivrudhi means development, but the Abhivrudhi Garden Layout, is like a no man's land between Bengaluru City East Corporation and Kithaganur Gram Panchayat. Residents have been paying property tax to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) for more than a decade, yet the authorities concerned have failed to provide basic amenities. The layout's main disadvantage is its location on the border of the two jurisdictions.

Residents allege that BBMP authorities avoided development on the grounds that the layout fell under Kithaganur Gram Panchayat, but continued to collect property tax from more than 70 properties. Left with no option, they visited the Bengaluru East City Corporation at KR Puram on Wednesday to submit a memorandum appealing for basic amenities.

"We have been paying property tax for many years, but the authorities have failed to redress our grievances. We even have to spend money to fix street lights. Our layout has been neglected for years," said Prakash NB, a resident of Abhivrudhi Garden Layout.

Frustrated residents submitted a memorandum at KR Puram Corporation office, urging officials to finally deliver essential services long denied

He added that the authorities had failed to provide underground drainage (UGD) facilities. "We have paid development charges and property tax to the BBMP all these years. There are more than 70 buildings in this layout, and all of us had to dig soak pits in the absence of the UGD facility," he said, adding that residents rely on Kithaganur Gram Panchayat workers for garbage disposal.

Expressing a similar opinion, resident Vikram Subramani said that the condition of the roads is poor. "The BBMP has not asphalted the roads all these years. The roads were developed when the layout was formed by the land developer. We have no basic amenities. Water stagnation has become a nuisance and a health hazard," he said. A resident, requesting anonymity, said the authorities have yet to make arrangements to supply Cauvery water to the layout.

VP Krishna, founder of KR Puram Constituency Association Welfare Federation, said residents of Abhivrudhi Garden Layout have been suffering due to the apathy of both the BBMP and Kithaganur Gram Panchayat. "I urge the Bengaluru East City Corporation authorities to provide basic amenities without delay," Krishna said.

Meanwhile, Bengaluru East City Corporation Assistant Engineer Srikanth said he would visit Abhivrudhi Garden Layout. "We might have overlooked a portion of the layout, assuming that it came under Kithaganur Gram Panchayat. I will inspect the area, and if it falls under Bengaluru East City Corporation, I will address the problems," he said.

Bengaluru wards may see a 2,400% jump over 163 years

The administrative history of Bengaluru, a city that began its municipal governance in 1862 with just nine members, has closely mirrored its extraordinary growth. The proposed creation of a new, five-corporation system with a total of 225 wards reflects the city's journey from a tranquil "Pensioner's Paradise" to one of India's fastest-growing metropolises and IT-BT hubs. This structure represents a staggering 2,400% increase in the number of wards over 163 years, a powerful testament to the city's explosive expansion.

Historical Evolution

According to historians, Bengaluru's journey in local governance began on March 27, 1862, with the experimental establishment of a Municipal Board, modelled on the British system. A separate Cantonment Board was formed four months later on August 1, 1862, with both boards independently managing sanitation, taxation, police, and accounts within their respective jurisdictions. The first elections were held in 1883, with 18 members elected across the two boards, although government officials retained control. In 1949, the administration was consolidated into the Bengaluru City Corporation (BCC), and R. Subbanna was elected as the first mayor. The BCC expanded its wards from 69 in 1951 to 100 in 1996, when it was renamed the Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BMP).

New Administrative Era

The city's governance entered a new phase in 2007 with the creation of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). It absorbed seven municipal councils (Dasarahalli, Yelahanka, KR Puram, Bommanahalli, Byatarayanapura, Mahadevapura and Pattanagere/RR Nagar) and one town municipal council (Kengeri) along with 110 villages, expanding the number of wards to 198. The BBMP council saw elections in 2010 and completed its tenure in 2020, after which the city was governed by administrators. A proposal in 2022 to increase the wards to 243 was later revised to 225. Now, with the BBMP's existence formally ending on September 2, 2025, a new 'Greater Bengaluru Authority' has been established, dividing the city into five distinct city corporations. This marks a fundamental shift in governance from a single massive entity to a more distributed model, with a modern era of administration beginning under the authority. — BMB

Five corporations to manage city growth

'Valley Bridges' proposed to keep traffic flowing during repairs

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) is exploring a new solution to alleviate the severe traffic congestion caused by road repair work on its busiest stretches. According to GBA Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao, the city is considering the use of temporary 'Valley Bridges'. These bridges would be installed over sections of road undergoing works such as white-topping or black-topping, allowing vehicles to continue moving while work is carried out below. Proposed by a Kolkata-based company, the bridges, which could span 20 to 30 metres, are estimated to cost between ₹4 and ₹5 crore each. While this could be a temporary fix for minimising public inconvenience, Rao emphasised that the BBMP will need to carefully assess its feasibility. The installation of each bridge would take about a week, and officials must weigh the benefits against this temporary disruption. The city is also open to suggestions from local start-ups on other innovative solutions to ensure uninterrupted roadwork without impacting the city's already-stressed traffic. — BMB

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Flood zone

Doddamara Road

Frequent flooding has been observed at Doddamara Road, Rayasandra, rendering the area unsafe for pedestrians, especially children

Leak alert

Race Course Road

A water leak from a damaged pipe was reported on Race Course Road, Bengaluru on September 4, 2025.

Waste pools

Jayanagar

Persistent water stagnation on 7th Main Road, 4th Block, Jayanagar, has resulted in unhygienic conditions, causing inconvenience to devotees visiting the nearby temple.

Rape cases rise, but conviction record grim

Experts warn that unless urgent reforms are implemented, survivors will continue to be denied justice across Karnataka

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Fresh data presented in the Legislative Assembly by Home Minister G Parameshwara paints a grim picture. While the number of rape cases registered in the state has steadily increased over the past three years, conviction rates have alarmingly plummeted to single digits, raising questions about the criminal justice system's effectiveness and accountability.

Steady rise in cases

According to figures presented, 600 rape cases were registered in 2023, followed by 739 cases in 2024 — a 23% increase in absolute numbers. In the first seven months of 2025 alone, 549 cases have already been filed, putting the state on track to surpass previous years if the trend continues unchecked. Arrests, however, are not keeping pace. In 2023, 767 accused were arrested, and in 2024, the number rose slightly to 969. But in 2025, only 407 arrests were recorded until July, far lower than required given the overall caseload and rising incidence of crime.

Convictions shrinking alarmingly

The bigger worry lies in conviction rates. In 2021, convictions stood at 11.7%, slipping to 8.4% in 2022, and plunging further to just 3.6% in 2023. The Assembly was informed that 55 convictions were secured in 2023 out of 600 cases, while 28 ended in acquittals. In 2024, despite 739 cases being filed, only 23 convictions were reported across the state. For 2025, with 549 cases already registered, the numbers are still under trial — but the trend suggests little hope of improvement unless urgent corrective measures are adopted.

Why so few convictions

Home Minister G Parameshwara said poor conviction rates arise from compromises between parties, hostile or missing witnesses, trial delays, lack of forensic evidence, investigative lapses, and even the death of victims or witnesses during prolonged proceedings. Committees have highlighted weak prosecution and incomplete evidence collection as critical concerns undermining justice. To address these issues, the state has mandated investigations be completed within 60 days, appointed 206 Scene of Crime Officers with 500 more planned, established Court Monitoring Cells, and formed three-tier Acquittal Review Committees. It has also set up Support Centres for Women and Children, enhanced witness protection, and introduced video-conferencing.

According to figures presented, 600 rape cases were registered in 2023, followed by 739 cases in 2024 — a 23% increase in absolute numbers

Justice remains elusive

Vidya Kumar, an activist said, "Despite reforms, the gap between rising cases and falling convictions is widening. With over 1,888 rape cases registered in just 31 months, but fewer than 80 convictions secured, activists argue that the state must prioritise not just policing but also prosecution efficiency, victim care, and stronger witness support. As Karnataka's Assembly debates crime and safety, the figures highlight a disturbing truth: for survivors of sexual violence, justice remains elusive and painfully out of reach."

BMTC issues new protocol for visitors and ex-staff

The Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has introduced new guidelines regulating the entry of visitors, suspended employees, and dismissed staff into its offices, units, and workshops.

As per a circular issued on September 3, 2025, all visitors must register their details, carry a written application or complaint, and submit it to the designated officer. Unit managers must provide a written response within 15 days.

The circular further instructs that any disturbances caused by visitors or former employees be reported to the local police, with a copy sent to higher authorities. Officials said the measures aim to streamline grievance handling and enhance staff safety across depots and offices. **–BMB**

4,000+ complaints against bus drivers, conductors

The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) is facing mounting criticism as passengers have filed more than 4,000 complaints against its drivers and conductors in the first eight months of this year. These grievances, largely centered on rude behavior, negligence, and reckless driving, reflect a troubling rise in misconduct.

Of over 10,000 complaints recorded so far, 4,093 specifically concern inappropriate behavior of crew members. The surge in complaints coincides with increased ridership following the state government's Shakti scheme, which offers free bus travel for women, children, and the elderly.

BMTC officials maintain that all complaints are investigated and that staff members found guilty are warned, fined, or served notices. However, the persistence of passenger grievances suggests these measures have not been effective. The growing dissatisfaction has raised serious concerns about passenger safety, the corporation's accountability, and its ability to maintain public trust. **–BMB**

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Fraud in BPL cards exposed

An investigation by the Karnataka Food and Civil Supplies Department has revealed widespread irregularities in the distribution of Below Poverty Line (BPL) ration cards, with over 12 lakh flagged as suspicious out of 1.17 crore issued across the state.

The most alarming discovery is that 19,690 BPL cards are held by individuals listed as directors in registered companies, while another 2,684 belong to people with an annual turnover exceeding 25 lakh. Cross-verification with income tax and bank loan records also uncovered further misuse: 33,456 cardholders own more than 7.5 acres of land, 57,864 possess multiple ration cards across states, and 1,446 remain in the names of deceased individuals.

The probe was initiated to weed out ineligible beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), which allows coverage for 76.04% of rural and 49.36% of urban residents. With Karnataka issuing 14 lakh cards beyond the NFSA quota, the findings highlight systemic misuse and the urgent need for stronger verification. **–BMB**

Restoration delays frustrate residents at Sheelavanthakere

Once a thriving spot for walkers, the Whitefield Lake faces missed deadlines and incomplete work despite promises of swift rejuvenation

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Officials cite heavy rains as the main reason for delays, leaving the walking track and wetland construction unfinished

Delays plague Sheelavanthakere Lake's rejuvenation in Whitefield as sewage diversion and wetland work face rain setbacks, leaving residents frustrated over missed deadlines and continued lack of open public spaces

Sheelavanthakere Lake in Whitefield was once well-maintained and regularly visited by nearby residents. Over the years, however, the lake began to deteriorate as untreated sewage flowed into its waters. Earlier this year, the lake was taken up for rejuvenation and development, but the project has already missed several deadlines. The prolonged delay has left residents increasingly frustrated, as they wait for the restoration to be completed.

The Greater Bengaluru Authority has now taken charge of Sheelavanthakere Lake, which was earlier under the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). The lake was last restored in 2013, but in 2025 it was handed over to the lakes team for rejuvenation.

According to officials, the ongoing work includes creating a sewage diversion channel to stop untreated waste from entering the lake. In addition, a wetland and silt traps are being constructed to improve water quality. "We had expected the work to be completed by the end of August, but due to the rains, the restoration remains unfinished," an official from the lakes team said.

Residents say they have been waiting for months and are upset over repeated delays. "First we were told it would be completed by June, but now it's September. From what we see, it may take a couple more months because debris is still strewn around, the fencing is broken, and many trees have fallen," said Arvind Mohan, a Whitefield resident.

He added that residents relied heavily on the lake for open space and walking. "We used to visit the lake almost every alternate day as regular walkers. At one point, there was a strong foul smell in parts of the lake, and soon after, it was closed for restoration. In Mahadevapura, we hardly have any open spaces. Around our locality, there is only debris, and we don't even have proper footpaths to walk on. That's why we depended on the lake. While we are happy that restoration is happening, the delay has been very frustrating," he said.

Officials, however, maintain that most of the work is complete and only the walking track remains to be repaired. "We have already created the diversion channels, but in the process the walking track was damaged. Once we repair it, the lake will be reopened—it's just a matter of a few weeks. We are waiting for the rains to stop. We had also planned to create a wetland, but due to continuous rains we have not been able to execute it. Once the weather clears, the remaining work will be completed within a few days," the official explained.

80% K'taka temples turn plastic-free

The Karnataka Muzrai Department has made remarkable progress in its plastic ban initiative, with over 80% of temples now plastic-free. The ban, enforced from August 15, applies to all 30,000 temples under the department, categorized as A, B, and C grades. Prominent temples in Bengaluru, such as Gali Anjaneya Swamy Temple, Banashankari Temple, and Halasuru Someshwara Temple, have successfully eliminated plastic usage. The department launched awareness campaigns through public announcements and display boards, urging devotees to use cloth or bamboo bags for offerings instead of plastic items. Minister Ramalinga Reddy noted that implementation is strongest in high-footfall A and B grade temples, while efforts continue to cover all temples across rural areas as well. Vendors inside temple premises have also been directed to stop using plastic bags completely. To ensure compliance, the department plans to impose fines of ₹100 for first-time offenders and ₹1,000 for repeat violations or littering of plastic waste.

— BMB

Double-decker metro gets green signal

The Karnataka State Cabinet has cleared a major infrastructure proposal under Phase-3 of the Bengaluru Metro Rail Project, approving the construction of double-decker metro viaducts combined with elevated four-lane roads across two key corridors totalling 34.121 km in length. The approved stretches include JP Nagar 4th Phase to Hebbal via the ORR western alignment (28.486 km) and Hosahalli to Kadabagere via Magadi Road (8.635 km). These elevated roads, built alongside the metro viaducts, will feature loops and ramps for smoother traffic movement and improved overall connectivity across the city. The estimated cost of the project, including land acquisition, design charges, and contingencies, stands at ₹9,700 crore.

The Cabinet also finalized the funding plan, with the entire expenditure to be borne by the State Government. An initial allocation of ₹4,000 crore will be made in the 2025–26 state budget, with further provisions in subsequent budgets to complete the work successfully. This double-decker model aims to enhance connectivity and decongest Bengaluru's busiest traffic corridors. — BMB

KASSIA hails government's next-gen GST reforms

The Karnataka Small Scale Industries Association (KASSIA) has welcomed the Government's announcement of the Next-Gen GST Reforms, calling it a historic Diwali gift to the nation. The reforms aim to make GST simpler, more transparent, and highly business-friendly, particularly for MSMEs, which are the backbone of the Indian economy. The revised GST rates will provide significant relief to farmers, households, and enterprises. Essential goods, healthcare, education, agriculture, automobiles, and electronic appliances have seen rationalized tax slabs, thereby reducing costs for both businesses and consumers, ultimately boosting overall market demand.

KASSIA President BR Ganesh Rao said these reforms are a major step toward building an Atma Nirbhar Bharat. "MSMEs will benefit from reduced compliance burdens, faster refunds, and lower tax rates, enabling them to focus on growth, innovation, and job creation," he said. Rao further added that critical issues such as labour charges, timely refunds, QRMP, and rationalization of taxes on still-highly taxed essential goods like batteries should be addressed in the next round of reforms. This will further strengthen the MSME ecosystem, promote industrial competitiveness, and enhance India's position in the global manufacturing landscape. — BMB

Riders caught doing wheelies in serious trouble

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

underage riders, the Juvenile Justice Act is also invoked, with parents held accountable. Apart from hefty fines and vehicle seizure, police recommend suspension or cancellation of the rider's DL or RC to the RTO, adding a long-term consequence beyond immediate penalties, the minister said.

Awareness and action

The crackdown is supported by awareness drives targeting youth. Under the Student Association for Road Safety (SARS) programme, officers conduct sessions in schools and colleges to highlight the dangers of stunt riding. Social media platforms are being used to amplify the message, and educational campaigns are run at the Traffic Training and Road Safety Institute and the Traffic Management Centre for students, bus operators, cab drivers, and delivery riders, he added.

Tech-Driven Enforcement

"Bengaluru Traffic Police use the Adaptive Traffic Control System at 169 junctions to help monitor high-risk areas. Countdown timers at signals encourage riders to switch off engines, while targeted patrols keep a close watch on wheelie hotspots. Repeat offenders are booked under Section 107 of the CrPC and made to sign bonds for good behaviour before the Special Executive Magistrate — a preventive step to rein in reckless riding," Parameshwara added.

Firm stand

"With recommendations for DL and RC suspension reaching unprecedented levels and tech-backed policing closing in on offenders, Bengaluru is taking a firm stance against wheelies. The city's roads are not a stunt arena. If you perform dangerous tricks, you risk losing your licence, your bike — and much more," an officer warned.

Parents face action

"Legal action will also be taken against the parents of underage bikers involved in wheeling," said Home Minister Dr. G. Parameshwara. He explained that in Bengaluru, cases are being registered against such riders, and if they are minors, their parents too face legal action. Vehicles used for wheeling, along with RC books and driving licenses, are being recommended for suspension by transport authorities. Additionally, patrolling has been intensified on roads prone to wheeling, and awareness programs are being conducted in schools and colleges to curb the menace."

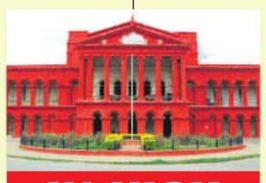
Mani dam brims, hydropower gets boost

In a rare milestone for Karnataka's energy sector, the Mani Dam has filled to capacity for only the fifth time in 37 years. Continuous rainfall since May 15 pushed the reservoir to 594.23 meters, just shy of its 594.36-meter full level, leading to the opening of three crest gates on Wednesday to release excess water safely downstream. The dam last reached full capacity in 2018, with previous instances in 1994, 2006, and 2007. This development is significant as hydroelectric power remains the most cost-effective energy source for the state's growing demand and sustainability goals. The Mani Dam itself generates 9 MW before channelling water to the Varahi underground power station, which produces 460 MW. Adding to this positive outlook, other major reservoirs such as Linganamakki, Chakra, and Savehaklu are also nearing full capacity, ensuring a strong boost to Karnataka's power generation and energy stability in the coming months statewide. — BMB

Deputy secretary's suspension quashed

The Karnataka High Court has set aside the suspension of KJ Jalajakshi, Deputy Secretary of the State Legislative Council, who had been suspended over allegations that she failed to ensure the portrait of Dr BR Ambedkar was displayed during the Constitution Day function held on November 26, 2024.

Justice HT Narendra Prasad, while allowing her plea, observed that it could not be conclusively established at this stage whether Jalajakshi was solely responsible for the omission. The judge noted that this could only be determined after a full-fledged departmental enquiry.



"Considering the nature of the charge, it cannot be reasonably concluded that the petitioner is likely to tamper with any witness or influence the course of the departmental enquiry," the court said.

The court highlighted that the suspension order, issued on July 4, 2025, came nearly seven months after the alleged lapse. "Continued suspension of the petitioner would serve no useful purpose," Justice Prasad remarked, adding that the charge did not justify prolonged suspension. The High Court had earlier stayed the order on July 8.

Challenging the suspension, Jalajakshi argued she was neither the designated authority to conduct nor supervise the Constitution Day event. Jalajakshi disputes suspension over unclear role. **-BMB**

Ban on non-veg food near temple: Notice to state govt

The Karnataka High Court on Thursday issued notice to the State government on a petition filed by Sri Honneshwaraswamy Devasthana Jeernodhara Seva Samithi Trust (R), challenging a police directive prohibiting the consumption of non-vegetarian food within 200 meters of the Sri Honneshwaraswamy temple in Tumakuru district.

The trust, which manages the temple's affairs, argued that the July 13, 2024 notice referred to an earlier High Court order in WP 18124/2023 and directed that no one should sacrifice or consume meat within the specified radius. The notice warned that violations would attract penal action.

Appearing for the trust, counsel clarified that they did not dispute restrictions on animal sacrifice but said the ban on eating non-vegetarian food interfered with long-standing customs and residents' rights. The petition pointed out that several families, including devotees living within the 200-meter radius, were prevented from preparing food of their choice, even inside their own homes. The plea further stated that the temple is a private institution, supported by devotees from across Karnataka and neighboring states. For decades, devotees have been preparing both vegetarian and non-vegetarian meals in a kitchen and dining hall near the temple, especially on weekends when rituals and offerings are held. **-BMB**

No interim relief for Ganesh procession route change

The Karnataka High Court on Wednesday declined to grant interim relief to an unregistered organisation that sought permission to conduct the Ganesh idol immersion procession through a specific route in Mandya district.

Justice BM Shyam Prasad passed the order while hearing a petition filed by Saamuhika Ganapati Visarjana Samithi, which had requested permission to hold the procession along its preferred route.

Senior advocate Arun Shyam, appearing for the petitioners, argued that the right to conduct a religious procession through a convenient route was protected under law, citing Supreme Court rulings. He contended that courts had previously intervened to safeguard such rights in situations where law and order concerns were raised.

Opposing the plea, the government advocate informed the court that last year's immersion procession on the same route had witnessed untoward incidents, including loss of life and damage to property. **-BMB**

SOCIAL TATTLE

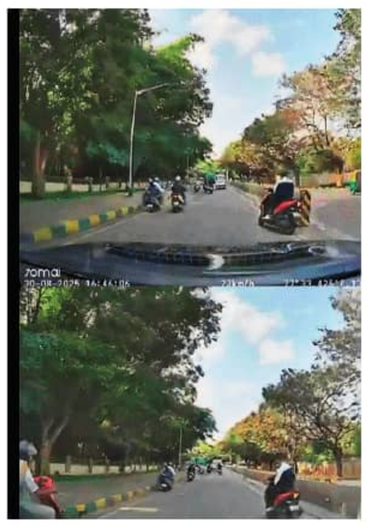


IMAGE OF THE DAY

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An auto rickshaw in Bengaluru caught attention with a witty line painted on its back. The post read: "Bengaluru traffic may test your patience, but not Rani's loyalty" #BengaluruAutos #Bengaluru

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Update: they have managed to block the road. Workers are on leave. No work since few days. Cars cannot commute. It's like people have been held hostage in their vicinity.
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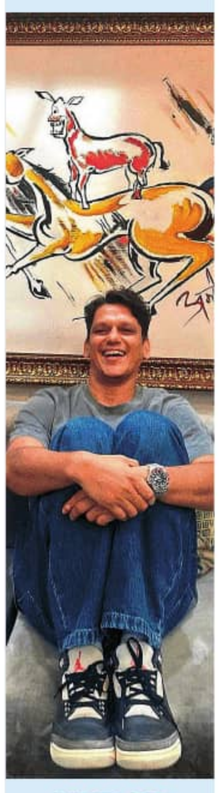
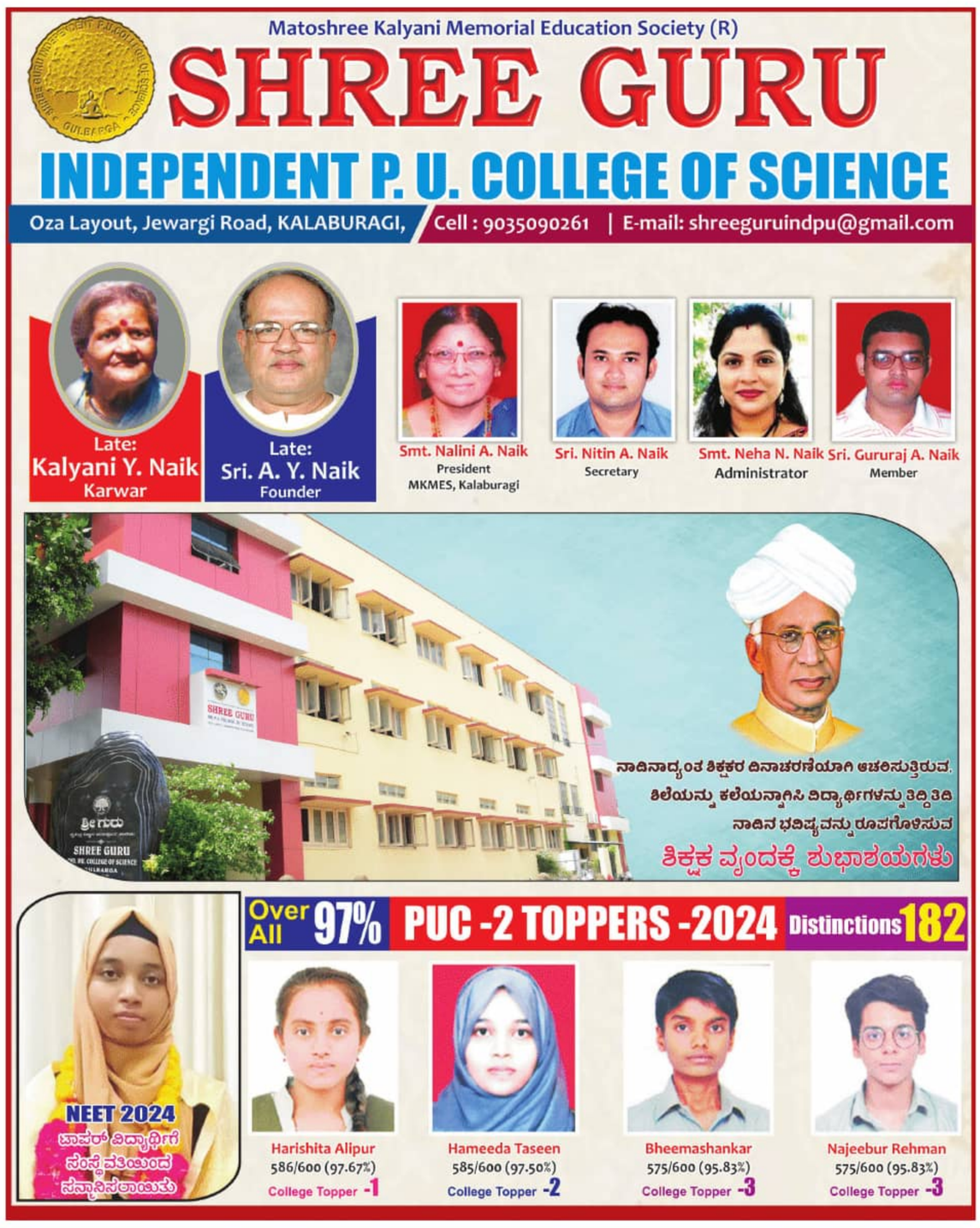


ART OF POSING: Vijay Varma sure knows which art work to pose with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ನಾಡಿನಾದ್ಯಂತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರ ವಿನಾಚರಣೆಯಾಗಿ ಆಚರಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ
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Over All 97% PUC -2 TOPPERS -2024 Distinctions 182
NEET 2024
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Hameeda Taseen 585/600 (97.50%) College Topper -2
Bheemashankar 575/600 (95.83%) College Topper -3
Najeebur Rehman 575/600 (95.83%) College Topper -3

Degrees attained through fraudulent means, say experts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for somebody working at the Karnataka Legislative Secretariat situated at Vidhana Soudha to attend classes conducted by a law college situated in Gokak defies logic. Another employee has got the LLB degree from a law college in Mysuru.

Many people, including the former Secretary of Legislative Secretariat, said that most of the LLB degrees are either fake or were attained through fraudulent methods such as paying money to the respective colleges to write LLB exams without attending classes.

"There is no provision for government employees to attend classes

during working hours. They have to apply for leave if they want to pursue higher studies. For example, Hemant Nimbalkar, an IPS officer, applied for leave for three years to pursue LLB. He rejoined duty after completing the LBB course. Kapil Mohan, an IAS officer, applied for leave to pursue MBA. I do not know how the employees of the Legislative Secretariat got the LBB degrees," said former secretary of Goa Legislature, and retired secretary of Karnataka Legislative Assembly Secretariat TN Dhruva Kumar.

The Karnataka Legislative Secretariat issued a conditional permission letter to Thippeswamy M, a stenographer, on July 31, 2025 to do LLB at Noble Law College, Gollarahatti with a condition that Thippeswamy should ensure no disturbance to his day to day functioning at the office. "The employee, based on this permission letter, should not come to the office late and leave the office early. If attendance is a must at the college, the government cannot be responsible for it. The Secretariat has the authority either to sanction leave to attend exams or cancel the leave," the conditional permission letter read.

MK Vishalakshi, Secretary, Legislative Secretariat, said that employees, who want to pursue higher studies, can attend classes between 8.30 am and 10.30 am. "We have not given permission to any employee to attend classes during working hours," said Vishalakshi.

However, Dr K Jagadeesh, Secretary, Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms, made it clear that the employees can avail of permission to pursue higher studies through distance education or online courses. "No employee is allowed to attend classes during working hours. They have to apply for leave to attend classes," said Dr Jagadeesh.

So the million dollar question is how these 42 employees managed to dodge the rules.

This revelation comes even as the government has ordered an inquiry against Ajaj Mohammed Khan, a retired Joint Secretary of Karnataka Legislative Secretariat, for allegedly submitting fake LLB degree certificates. A notice was issued to Khan on August 30.

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I, SYED AQUIB, R/a.#14/2,B No.8 Street, Shivai Road Crs, Shivajinagar, Bengaluru-51. I, have Changed my name to SYED MOHAMMED AQUIB, Vide affidavit, dated 03/09/2025 Sworn before Notary: N. Nagappa. Bangalore

I, NAGASHREE H, Residing at No 402, 2ND Floor, 5th Main, Sri Ramanjaneya Road, Srinagar,Bangalore-560050, Have changed my name to NAGASHREE K H, vide affidavit dated 03/09/2025 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Blore

I Saniya Falak Abdul Gaffar W/O, Mohsin Pasha R/o No 9/2 2nd Main Road Sattar Layout Lalji Nagar Adugodi Bengaluru - 560030 have changed my name to Saniya Falak.

I, Nanjamma Veerabhadrappa Balekai, W/o Veerabhadrappa Balekai R/o No 7, 9Th Main Road Nataraja Layout Santrupthi Nagar JP Nagar 7th Phase, B'luru-560078 have changed my name to Nanjamma Veerabhadrappa for all purposes.

I, PINKY SAMPATHRAJ W/O DHARMESH KUMAR A residing at No.1825, Hasthi Sadhan 3rd Cross, Bandigowda Layout, Mandya-571401. I have changed my name to PINKY. Vide affidavit dated 04.09.2025 sworn before notary. T V Bhadravijaya Bengaluru

WE, Vishnu S/o Narasimhaiah, and Smt. Roopa V W/o Vishnu N residing at Madure Main Road, Chikka Kukkanahalli, Dasanapura (H), Railway Gollahalli (P), Bangalore North-562123. I have changed my daughter's Name Kempamma V to Janavi V in further all official Purposes. Vide Affidavit dated 04.06.2025 Sworn before Notary K C Gowthami.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MADHUSUDHAN SRINIVASA. S/o Srinivasa.G, aged about 44 Years, Permanent Resident of Sri Nilaya, 8th Cross A Block, Behind Ambedkar Park, Jayanagara, Kolar-563101. My son's name is changed from SRI RAM (old Name) to LAKITH RAM MADHUSUDHAN (New Name) through Vide Affidavit Dated : 26.08.2025 sworn before Venkateshappa.N, Advocate & Notary, Kolar.

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BUST WEIGHT LOSS MYTHS

5 things everyone should understand about shedding kilos

Often reduced to a matter of individual willpower, weight loss is actually the result of a complex combination of biological, genetic, environmental, and social factors. Behind the miracle diets and the injunctions to "eat better" or "move more" lies a more subtle scientific reality: our bodies resist weight loss, and inequalities in living conditions weigh heavily in the balance. Five preconceived ideas deserve to be deconstructed to better understand what "losing weight" really means. **Here are five things I wish more people understood about weight loss:**

1 It goes against our biology

Obesity has been recognised as a national health priority in England since the 1990s, and numerous policies have been put in place to address it. Yet obesity rates have not declined —in France, the prevalence of excess weight (including both overweight and obesity) in 2020 was 47.3%, with 17% of subjects being obese. This suggests that current approaches, which tend to emphasise individual responsibility, are not working.

Even when weight loss methods are effective, the results are often not sustainable. Studies show that most people who lose weight eventually gain it back, and the chances of an obese person reaching and maintaining a "normal" weight are very low.

This is partly because our bodies react differently when we lose weight, a biological mechanism rooted in our evolutionary past: they fight back. This process is called metabolic adaptation: when we reduce our calorie intake and lose weight, our metabolism adjusts its energy expenditure, and hunger hormones like ghrelin increase, prompting us to eat more and regain the lost weight.

This biological response made perfect sense in our hunter-gatherer past, marked by alternating periods of abundance and famine. But today, in a world where ultra-processed, high-calorie foods are cheap and accessible, these same mechanisms actually promote weight gain and prevent weight loss.

If you're having trouble losing weight or keeping it off, it's not a personal failure, but a predictable physiological response.

2 It's not a question of willpower

Some people manage to maintain their weight with relative ease, while others struggle. The difference isn't just a matter of willpower.

Body weight is determined by a multitude of factors. Genetics plays a major role, for example, by influencing how quickly we burn calories, how hungry we feel, and how full we feel after eating. Some people are genetically predisposed to feeling hungrier or craving energy-dense foods, which makes weight loss even more difficult.

Environmental and social factors also play a role. Having sufficient time and financial resources to prepare balanced meals, engage in regular physical activity, and sleep well all make a real difference. However, these resources are not accessible to everyone.

Ignoring these complex factors and viewing weight solely as a matter of willpower fuels stigma. Yet, stigma can lead people to feel judged, ashamed, or excluded, which, paradoxically, increases stress, lowers self-esteem, and makes it even harder to adopt healthy habits.

3 Calories aren't everything

Counting calories is often the default strategy for weight loss. And while creating a calorie deficit is theoretically essential for weight loss, in practice, it's much more complicated.

For starters, nutritional information on foods is only an estimate, and our energy needs vary from day to day. Even the amount of energy we absorb from food can vary depending on how it's cooked, digested, and the composition of our gut bacteria.

There's also a persistent misconception that "a calorie is a calorie," but our bodies don't process all calories the same.

A cookie and a boiled egg may contain the same number of calories, but they have very different effects on our hunger, digestion, and energy levels. A cookie may cause a rapid spike in blood sugar, followed by a sharp drop, while an egg provides a longer-lasting feeling of satiety (fullness) and higher nutritional value.

These misconceptions have contributed to the popularity of fad diets, such as protein shake diets or those that eliminate certain food groups entirely.

A more realistic and balanced approach is to focus on long-term changes: eating more whole foods, cutting down on takeout, reducing alcohol consumption, and adopting habits that promote overall well-being.

4 Exercise is great for your health, but not necessarily for weight loss

Many people believe that the more they exercise, the more weight they lose. But science shows us that the reality is more complex.

Our bodies are very good at conserving energy. After an intense workout, we may unconsciously move less for the rest of the day, or feel hungrier and eat more, which compensates for the calories burned.

In fact, research shows that total daily energy expenditure does not increase with increased physical activity. Instead, the body adapts by becoming more efficient and reducing its energy consumption elsewhere, making weight loss through exercise alone more difficult than many people think.

That said, exercise still offers a multitude of benefits: it improves cardiovascular health, mental well-being, maintains muscle mass, strengthens metabolism, strengthens bones, and reduces the risk of chronic diseases.

5 Improving health doesn't always mean losing weight

You don't have to lose weight to be healthier.

While intentional weight loss can reduce the risk of diseases, such as heart disease and certain cancers, studies also show that eating a better diet and moving more can significantly improve health indicators, such as cholesterol, blood pressure, blood sugar, and insulin sensitivity, even if your weight stays the same.

(By Rachel Woods, University of Lincoln, The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

Boysober is in – And it's a very good thing for your dating life

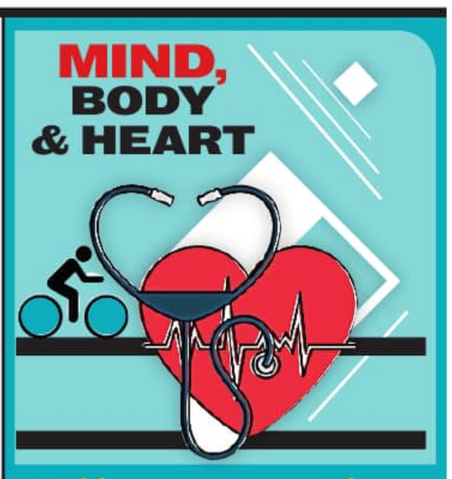
Boy sober means intentionally stepping back from dating, flirting, and romantic thoughts to prioritise your own healing. The goal is simple: preserve your emotional energy by avoiding unnecessary drama. Let's be honest – dating is exhausting, and heartbreak even more so. Yet, many of us rush back in before we've had time to heal. Whether it's seeking validation or chasing the idea of 'the one,' we often ignore the emotional baggage piling up. Instead of unpacking it, we push forward, hoping someone else's attention will erase the pain.

That's why going boy sober is your chance to reconnect – with yourself. It's about finding your worth within, not in someone else's attention, behavior, or commitment. Saying, "Right now, I need to focus on me." Because in the rush to be desired, we forget to ask what we truly desire. And boysober is all about healing your relationship, to, well, relationships.

Glow-up post going boysober

Here's the best part – going boy sober brings clarity. You become confident in your own company and learn to validate yourself. Suddenly, you only open your heart to those who add value to your already full life. Healthy relationships don't complete you – they enhance you. I've always believed that the famous Jerry Maguire quote, "You complete me," is deeply flawed. A partner shouldn't complete you. The only person responsible for doing that – is you.

—Shahzeen Shivadasani for Femina



All you need to know about...

Signs of Vit A deficiency

Brittle hair, nails
Healthy hair and nails depend on proper cell growth and sebum production, both of which are influenced by vitamin A. A deficiency can lead to dry, brittle, and thinning hair due to decreased sebum production from oil glands on the scalp.

Dry eyes
This Vitamin is vital for producing tears and maintaining the lubrication of your eyes. A deficiency can cause dryness, irritation, or a gritty sensation in the eyes, a condition known as xerophthalmia.

Frequent infections
Vitamin A plays a key role in strengthening the immune system by supporting the production and function of white blood cells. A deficiency can weaken your body's ability to fight off bacteria and viruses, making you more prone to infections, particularly in the respiratory and gastrointestinal tracts.

Delayed wound healing
Vitamin A is crucial for tissue repair and regeneration. A deficiency can slow down wound healing, as the vitamin is essential for collagen synthesis, a protein that forms the structural framework of skin and tissues.

Weak bones
Vitamin A works in synergy with other nutrients like vitamin D and calcium to maintain strong bones. A deficiency can lead to reduced bone density, making you more prone to fractures and bone-related conditions.

Dry skin
Vitamin A is essential for cell growth and skin repair. A deficiency can lead to a condition called phrynoderma, which is characterized by dry, rough, and bumpy skin, especially on the arms and thighs. This happens because vitamin A regulates keratin production, a protein that protects your skin.

—Femina

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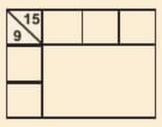
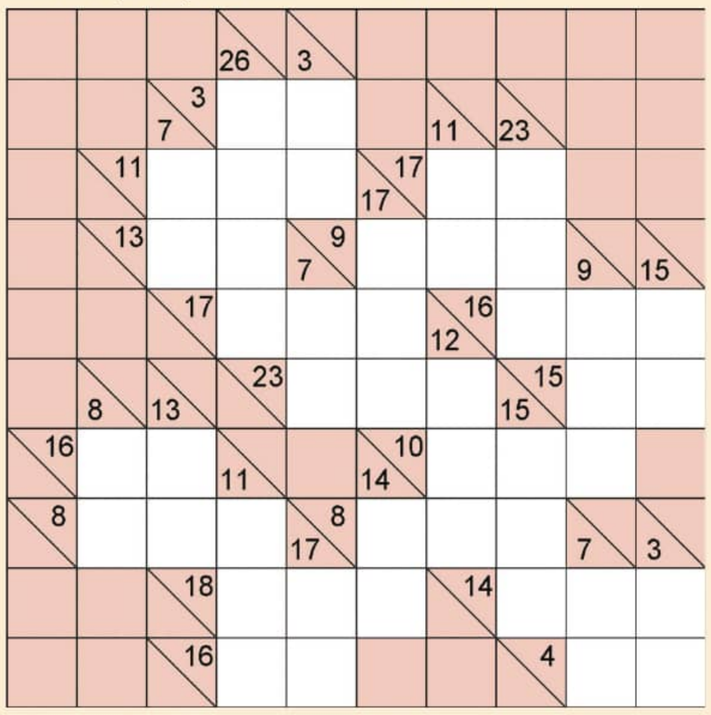
Kakuro

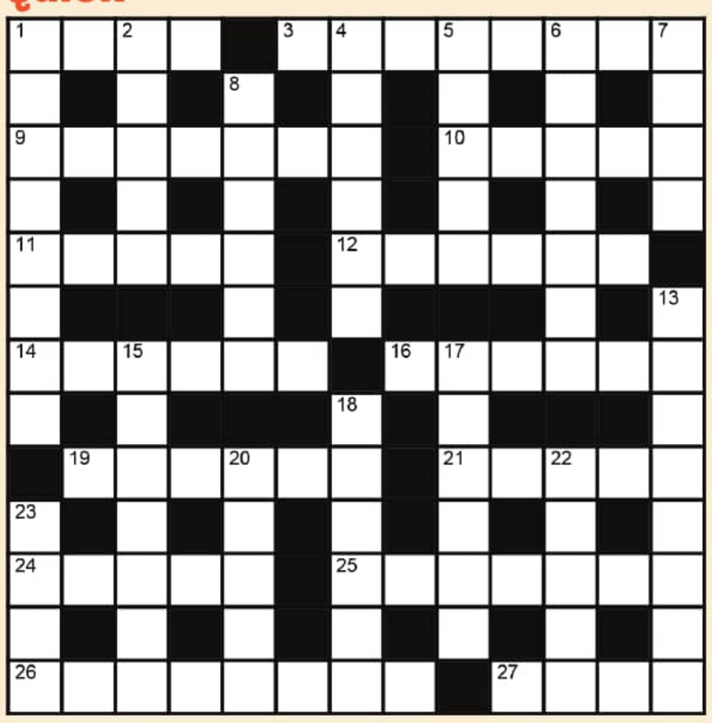
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Sham; false (4)
3 Hugs, takes one to one's bosom (8)
9 Small anchor (7)
10 Have on hire (5)
11 Subarctic forest (5)
12 Sews loosely together (6)
14 Badgered constantly (6)
16 Entreat earnestly (6)
19 Of the tail (6)
21 Rub impatiently? (5)
24 Narcos star ___ Pascal (5)
25 Bent on (4,3)
26 They help during childbirth (8)
27 In the company of or in the middle of (4)

DOWN

1 Battling (8)
2 Army colour (5)
4 California resort (6)
5 Poses or parts? (5)
6 The French mansion (7)
7 Plant the lawn (4)
8 As a precaution (2,4)
13 Downcast (8)
15 Father's father to you? (7)
17 Our city is located in this plateau (6)
18 Thick greasy mud? (6)
20 Loincloth (5)
22 Dispur is its capital (5)
23 Unwanted e-mail (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: P EQUALS G

U RTITN WKYQVC TQ MYTP-SRKCKN LKMVYK U NUCPKY, U ZVDUYN NBYTCP RSK RTIK, UCN U ZVBYUPKVBQ WKYQVC UMRKYDUYN.

Linemaro

I'm about to commit a crime...I'm planning to steal your heart

Mind chow

Don't let your victories go to your head, or your failures go to your heart

Joke of the day

A man takes his dog to the vet. "My dog is crossed eyed, is there anything you can do for him? "Well," says the vet, "let's take a look at him." So he picks the dog up and examines his eyes, then checks his teeth. Finally, he says, "I'm going to have to put him down." "What? Because he is crosseyed?" "No, because he's really heavy."

Loop

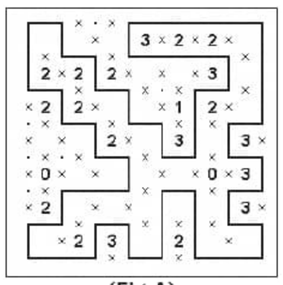
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

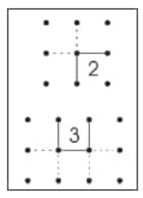
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

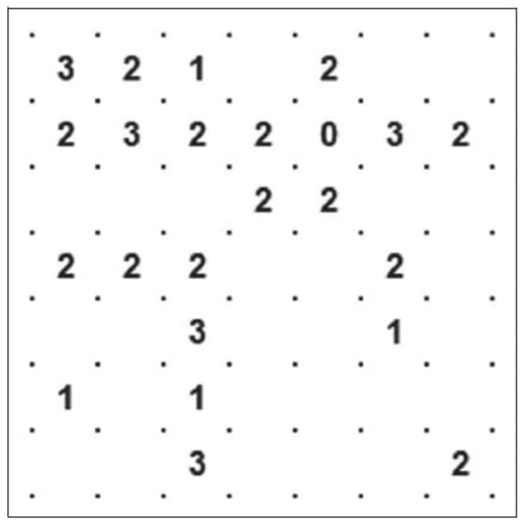
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



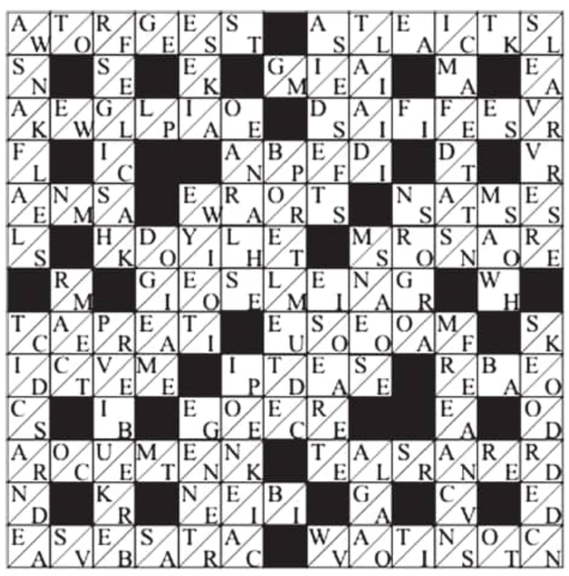
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



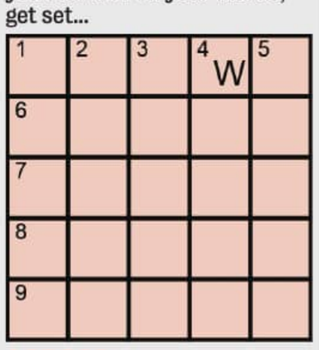
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 SS Law; 6 AD Hal; 7 No ade; 8 Cad we; 9 Dinks

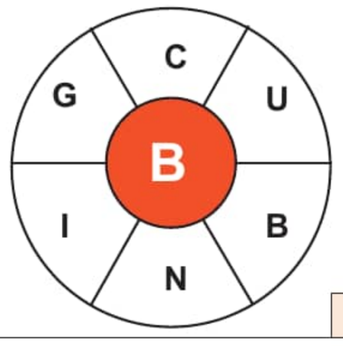
DOWN

1 Hacks; 2 Liana; 3 Awn do; 4 Dew ad; 5 Delss

Mensapuzzle

What should go on the top of the last domino?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

06 Average; **07** Good; **9** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

8								9
	3	2	7		9	4	5	
			3		1			
		8	1		6	3		
	4			7			2	
		9	2		5	1		
			5		2			
	9	7	4		3	6	8	
3								4

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 4

2 3 4 7

Medium = 8

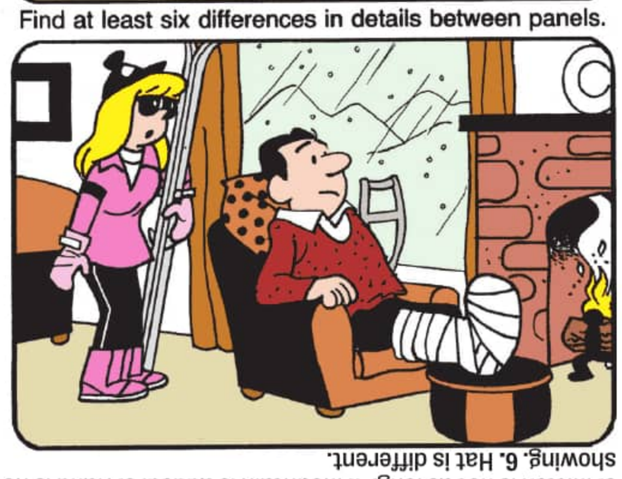
2 4 6 8

Hard = 20

4 5 5 5

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



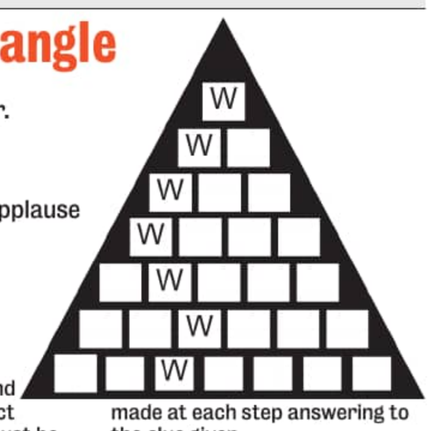
Differences: 1. Crutch is different. 2. Cast is longer. 3. Mitten is not as long. 4. Mountain is added. 5. Hand is not showing. 6. Hat is different.

Riddler

Simple nearly beyond compare. He is noble. He is rare. He makes you squeak! Quiescent! Light! Bright coloured things He brings to flight! For all of that (so we are told) He can be amazingly cold. Who is He?

Alpha triangle

1 Watt, abbr.
2 West Indies, abbr.
3 __lose or draw
4 _ it, improvise
5 Unpaid
6 Acknowledging applause
7 Bumrah's forte

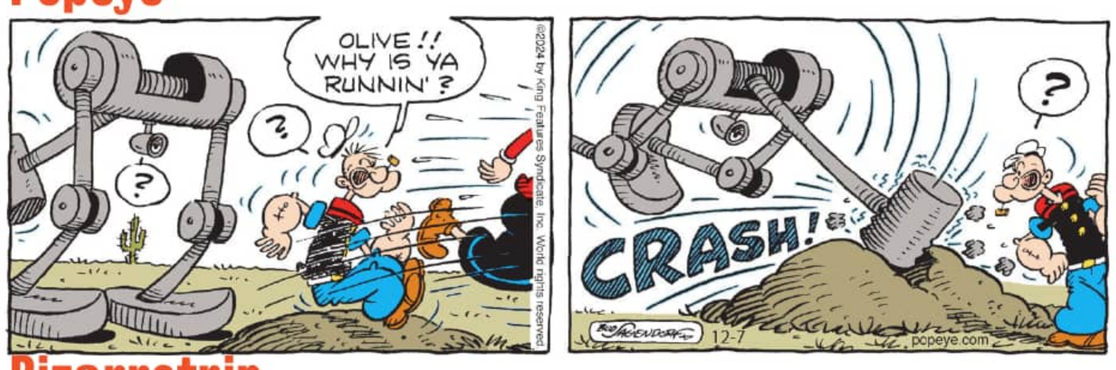


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip

When you've finished browsing, I'll be at the Little Free Brewery.
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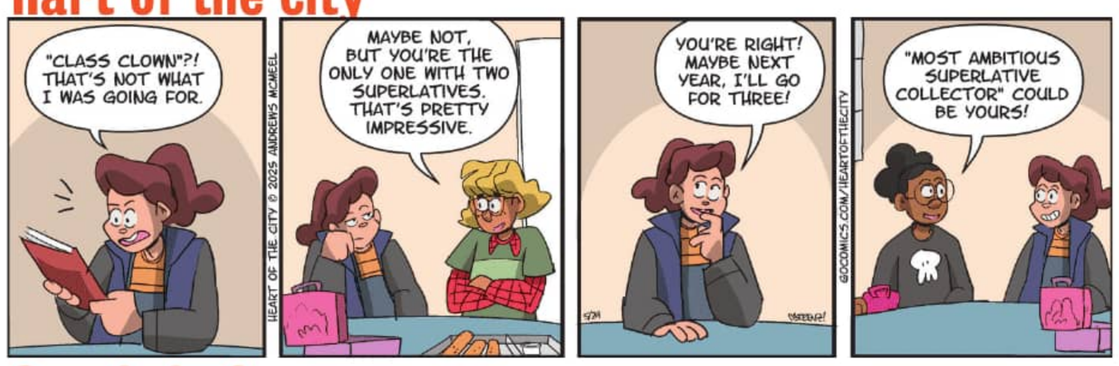
Diamond Lil

Hart of the city


"CLASS CLOWN"?! THAT'S NOT WHAT I WAS GOING FOR.
MAYBE NOT, BUT YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WITH TWO SUPERLATIVES. THAT'S PRETTY IMPRESSIVE.
YOU'RE RIGHT! MAYBE NEXT YEAR, I'LL GO FOR THREE!
"MOST AMBITIOUS SUPERLATIVE COLLECTOR" COULD BE YOURS!
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Crankshaft

WHEN I GOT TO MEET ROGER BOLLEN, I IMMEDIATELY APOLOGIZED FOR ALL OF THE CALLS I'D MADE TRYING TO SET UP A MEETING...
AND HE SAID IT WAS NO PROBLEM.
BY THE FOURTEENTH CALL HE FIGURED I MUST BE SERIOUS!
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5-29

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today brings harmony and joy within the family, uplifting your mood. You may come across an influential person who could help you gain benefits on the professional front. Your dedication at work is likely to be recognized, possibly leading to rewards or even a promotion. Long-pending disputes related to inherited property may move toward resolution, bringing relief and peace of mind.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may find yourself reflecting deeply through self-analysis, which will boost your confidence and bring clarity to your goals. With renewed focus, success will feel within reach. Your creativity will also shine, drawing you toward art, movies, or glamorous fields. By the end of the day, you'll feel a sense of contentment with your progress. Hidden opponents or challenges may weaken, leaving you in a stronger position.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Mixed energies surround you today. Avoid expecting too much from others, as this could lead to disappointment. Instead, the day is best suited for self-reflection and personal growth. By filtering out distractions and focusing inward, you'll rediscover confidence and prepare yourself to tackle new challenges head-on.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today may bring a wave of negativity that leaves you feeling burdened by responsibilities. In your rush to complete tasks, small mistakes could slow your efficiency and delay projects. This might impact your professional growth. Before making major decisions, seek advice from elders or experienced mentors, as their guidance will help you avoid setbacks.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
A productive day awaits you. Your hard work is likely to yield results, giving you recognition and confidence. Strong focus will help you complete tasks ahead of time, enhancing your efficiency. A short work-related trip could also be on the horizon, proving useful in expanding your professional network and future opportunities.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, the blessings of the Moon bring patience and stability. Inherited assets or financial gains may come your way. At work, your calm and composed approach will increase efficiency, and your polite nature will strengthen relationships. Using your communication skills wisely could open new business opportunities and contribute to steady progress in your career.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
You are blessed with patience today, which will help you deal with external work-related stress calmly. Your inner peace will allow you to balance personal and professional life with grace. Family life looks harmonious, and parents' health shows signs of improvement. You may also receive good news from siblings, further uplifting your mood.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today might feel heavy, as old health issues could resurface and cause impatience. Be cautious with your finances, as unnecessary spending could drain your resources. Your short temper may also create strain in relationships. Love birds should avoid pointless arguments, as they could lead to misunderstandings or even a breakup if not handled wisely.

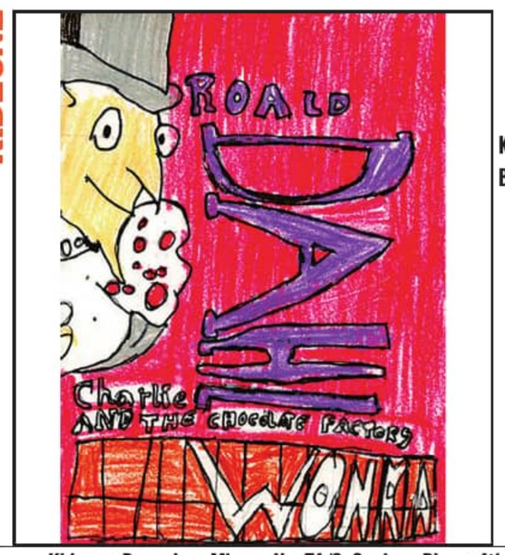
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
A joyful day lies ahead, as you find harmony in both personal and professional life. Your polite nature will make collaborations smoother, helping you complete tasks efficiently. New sources of income may open up, strengthening your financial base. You may also consider renovating your home or office. Those employed are likely to hear positive news regarding promotions or recognition.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today will be busy, but with the blessings of your elders, you'll successfully implement new ideas and innovations at work. Your commitment to ethics and fairness in dealing with people will not only enhance your reputation but also give you inner strength and peace. This is a good time to focus on long-term projects.

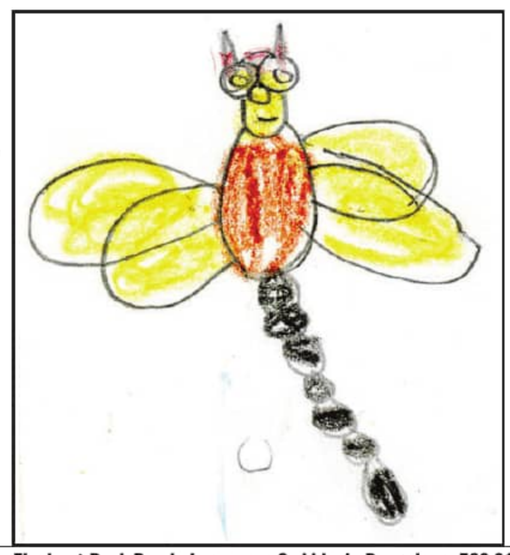
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
You'll feel satisfied with your role and responsibilities at work today. A short work-related trip may be on the agenda, bringing both productivity and inspiration. A visit to a religious or spiritual place is also possible, helping you maintain inner peace. Guidance from mentors or spiritual gurus will provide clarity and strengthen your resolve to achieve your goals.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
You may feel low on energy today. It's best to stay calm and think carefully before taking action. If you're recovering dues or money, travel may be required. Avoid risky adventures, as they may not bring favorable outcomes. Students should focus on deep study and discipline to ensure success. Some of you may feel drawn toward spirituality or occult studies, which could bring new insights.

KIDZONE



Karthikeya, Bengaluru



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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
= 1/4 + 1/2 +2^(2)(3/2) -12^2(1/2)
= 1/4+1/2 +8-12
=-(13/4)=-3.25

BULL'S EYE
brig, bring, bung, burg, burn, crib, curb, CURBING, grub

RIDDLER Helium

FAST FIVE

S	L	A	W	S
H	A	D	A	L
A	N	O	D	E
C	A	W	E	D
K	I	N	D	S

STRIKE OUT

A	T	R	E	S	T		S	L	A	C	K	S		
N		E		K		M	I	A		A		E		
K	E	L	P	I	E		D	I	F	F	E	R		
L		I		A	P	E	D		T		T		V	
E	M	S		E	R	R	S		N	A	M	E		
S		H	O	O	Y	L	E		S	O	N	A	R	
	M		G	O	S	L	I	N	G		W			
C	A	R	A	T		U	S	E	O	F		S		
I	T	E	M		I	D	E		R	A	O			
C		B		G	O	E	R		A		D			
A	C	U	M	E	N		E	A	R	N	E	D		
D		K		N	I	B		G		C		E		
A	V	E	S	T	A		W	A	T	S	O	N		

QUICK

F	A	K	E		E	M	B	R	A	C	E	S		
I		H		I		A		O		H		E		
G	R	A	P	N	E	L		L	E	A	S	E		
H		K		C		I		E		T		D		
T	A	I	G	A		B	A	S	T	E	S			
I		S		U				A		D		E		
N	A	G	G	E	D		A	D	J	U	R	E		
G		R				S		E		J				
C	A	U	D	A	L		C	H	A	F	E			
S		N		H		U		C		S		C		
P	E	D	R	O		D	E	A	D	S	E	T		
A		T		G		I		N		A		E		
M	I	D	W	I	V	E	S		A	M	I	D		

MENSA PUZZLE
4. Start on the left and move to the right, taking pairs of dominoes. The sum of each pair of dominoes follows the sequence 5, 10, 15 and 20.

QUOTE UNCODE
A timid person is frightened before a danger, a coward during the time, and a courageous person afterward.

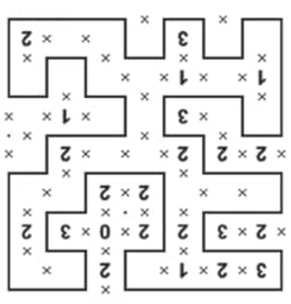
SUDOKU

8	1	5	6	2	4	7	3	9
6	3	2	7	8	9	4	5	1
9	7	4	3	5	1	8	6	2
5	2	8	1	4	6	3	9	7
1	4	3	9	7	8	5	2	6
7	6	9	2	3	5	1	4	8
4	8	1	5	6	2	9	7	3
2	9	7	4	1	3	6	8	5
3	5	6	8	9	7	2	1	4

ALPHA TRIANGLE
W, Wl, Win, Wing, Owing, Bowing, Bowling.

GO FIGURE
3 + 7 – 4 – 2 = 4
Medium
6 – 4 x 8 / 2 = 8
Hard
5 + 4 – 5 x 5 = 20

LOOP



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 # Far from reality
Veteran Kannada filmmaker Girish Kasaravalli says audiences today are not able to identify with Hindi films as they are far from reality and not rooted in culture

ART OF POSING

Vijay Varma sure knows which art work to pose with

Vijay Varma confessed that he's an art connoisseur and here's the biggest proof of it. He was seen posing with this iconic piece of art and true cinema lovers know it. It's not just a piece of art but a masterpiece created by Anil Kapoor's character Majnu bhai in 'Welcome'. The quirky image of a donkey riding on a horse has lived rent-free in pop culture for years and Vijay made sure to pose with it. From the looks of it, this seems to be director Anees Bazmee's house or office where Vijay is posing.

On Thursday, September 4, Vijay took to Instagram to share his excitement. In the post, he posed in front of the iconic painting, dressed casually in a grey T-shirt and jeans, flashing a wide smile.

A video in the carousel captured a hilarious moment when someone off-camera quipped, "50,000 dollars," making Vijay burst into laughter. The carousel also included close-up shots of him basking in the joy of sitting beside the painting, which bore the signature of Welcome director Anees Bazmee.

In his caption, Vijay wrote, "Yes, I'm an Art Connoisseur. Sharing my moment with the most iconic painting from Bollywood.. no painting has ever brought this much joy to us @aneesbazmee sir @anilskapoor sir respect. Majnu Bhai supremacy." He later added in the comments, "Many people will watch Welcome today… again.." —**ETimes**

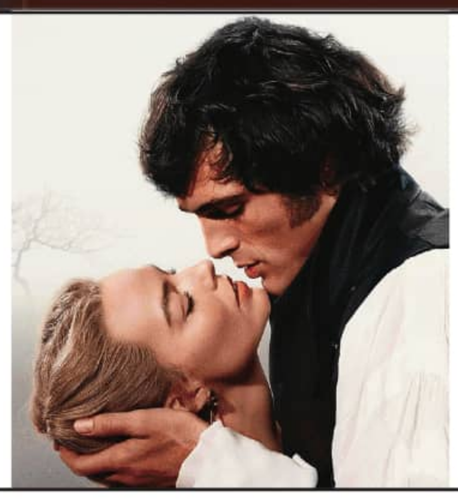
'Wuthering Heights' on Valentine's Day 2026

Margot Robbie and Jacob Elordi starrer "Wuthering Heights" has unveiled its first teaser and is set to hit the theatres on February 14, 2026.

An adaptation of the 1847 gothic romance by Emily Bronte, the story is set in Yorkshire Moors following the tumultuous, obsessive love and vengeance between Catherine Earnshaw and the orphaned anti-hero Heathcliff.

The story explores revenge, class and social status. Elordi's casting was controversial due to Bronte's description of Heathcliff as a dark skinned man which remains essential to the plot and his outsider status.

The 90-second teaser set to Charli XCX's "Everything is romantic" shows the two leads



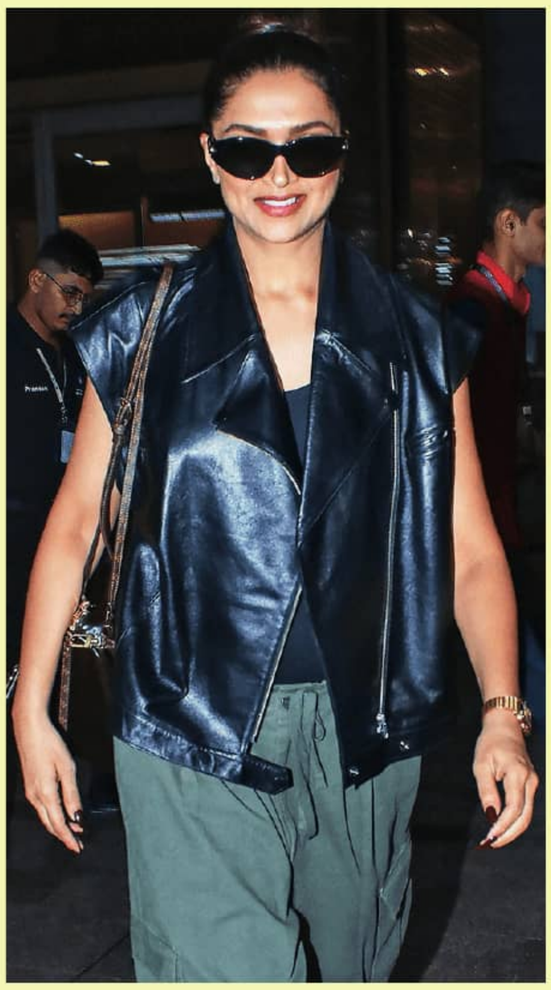
longing for one another. It also shows a glimpse of Robbie's wedding dress which went viral while the filming was taking place.

The psychological drama film is directed, written and produced by Emerald Fennel who is known for her 2020 film "Promising Young Woman" and her 2023 film "Saltburn".

"Wuthering Heights" is distributed by Warner Bros with Robbie co-producing under her label LuckyChap Entertainment. —**PTI**

Head-turners in black

Bollywood's power couple, Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh, are setting new style standards with their latest black-on-black airport looks. Their recent appearances have gone viral, showcasing their unique fashion sensibilities.



From Deepika's chic leather ensemble to Ranveer's surprising new look, here's a closer look at why their airport fashion is grabbing headlines and what's next for the beloved stars.

In the video, Deepika Padukone was snapped at the Mumbai airport in a chic leather outfit. She thanked the photographers but didn't stop to pose and went straight to her car. She wore a sleeveless leather jacket with a matching top and loose green pants.

Meanwhile, Ranveer Singh was also seen at the airport, surprising fans with his new short haircut and clean shaven look. He wore a simple tracksuit paired with red sunglasses. Before getting into his car, he lowered his face mask to pose for the photographers.

—**ETimes**

Do not disturb

Actress-producer Priyanka Chopra Jonas has expressed her chagrin with her husband Nick Jonas' loud singing. On Thursday, the actress took to the Stories section of her Instagram, and re-shared a video from Nick in which the two can be seen inside their living room.

In the video, Nick can be seen singing the Jonas Brothers' song 'Backwards'. Priyanka was enjoying a relaxing afternoon at home in her calming UV mask as she flipped through the pages of a magazine sitting in the same room. She tried her best to ignore her husband's loud singing until it became impossible to not look at. She later stormed out of the room.

She wrote on the video, "Can you get any louder?", a straightforward but playful comment on just how over-the-top he was being. It was a

simple, candid slice of everyday life.

Earlier, the actress had taken to her Instagram, and shared a bunch of pictures from her vacation in Africa. The pictures show the actress enjoying her holiday, gorging on some lip-smacking food, shedding the extra pounds in the gym, capturing the wildlife in her lens, sitting under the night sky, and enjoying some breathtaking views.

The actress geo-tagged Africa in her lo Priyanka Chopra was last seen in the streaming movie 'Heads of State' and will be next seen in 'The Bluff'. —**IANS**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Just for laughs

Middle Class Ramayana, based on the joys and problems of middle-class families, is set to arrive in theaters on September 12. The movie's trailer was released on Monday at a private hotel in the city. The trailer showcases the problems of parents belonging to a middle-class family to find a suitable match for their dark-skinned daughter. Mokshita Pai plays the female lead and Vinu Gowda is the hero, while Dhanush Gowda is the director.

Gowda said the movie revolves around a youth from a middle-class family. "The cast of this movie includes well-established actors, but they did not attend the promotional programmes of this movie. Their attitude has been disappointing," said Gowda.

The director said the movie went on floors before Covid-19. "We reshoot some of the sequences of hero and heroine due to the delay in shooting," the director said.

Jai teaser unveiled

The teaser of Jai was unveiled by Roaring Star Sriimurali recently at a hotel in the city. Roopesh Shetty, actor and director of Bigg Boss fame, has handled the megaphone for Jai. It is his third film after Girgit and Circus. The teaser of Jai was released in Tulu and Kannada.

Sriimurali said the quality of the teaser indicates the director's hard work and dedication. "Roopesh Shetty is a good actor. I have been noticing him for quite a long time. He is passionate about Tulu language and culture," Sriimurali said. Roopesh Shetty said he also plays the lead in Jai. "Jai is about local politics in the coastal region. This movie was made in Tulu and dubbed in Kannada. Sunil Shetty plays a key role in the movie. He did not take remuneration. He acted in the movie due to his passion towards Tulu. We are planning to release the movie in Tulu and Kannada on November 14," he said.

Adhvithi Shetty said she will debut as a heroine in Tulu movies with Jai. "Tulu is my mother tongue. My father had a dream of making me act in Tulu movies, but he passed away two years ago," she said.